

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 39 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. RICHARDSON) at noon.

## PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord, full of compassion and mercy, draw near to Your people and show us Your saving power.

In times of uncertainty, be our surety.

Guide us in every step to full recovery; that this Nation may be strengthened both in stability and integrity.

May we prove ourselves Your disciples and come to fullness of life in You and with You, both now and forever.

Amen.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## MIDDLE CLASS TAX CUTS

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, standing in our way are those who will be holding the middle class hostage in favor of giving added tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires, even though the bonus tax breaks would add \$700 billion to the national debt.

Ninety-eight percent of Americans face a tax increase January 1. For the typical middle class American family, that can mean the loss of \$2,000 next year. The Republicans' demands would mean that those making more than \$1 million a year would receive an average cut of \$100,000 annually, and the middle class would be saddled with \$700

billion in new debt to pay for the multi-million dollar tax cuts for billionaires. But that is the exact policy choice congressional Republicans would have us make, citing concerns about the deficit when it comes to American families, but not when it comes to tax cuts for the wealthiest few.

## THE LAND OF LAWLESS DAYS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the border war continues to escalate. Over 2,200 people have been killed just this year in drug-related violence in Mexico. The battles are spilling over into American communities. The drug cartels are shooting their way across the Rio Grande River. The Federal Government's answer is to put up danger signs: "Warning, Keep Out of Parts of America. It's Just too Dangerous." And now there are reports that the handful of National Guard troops on the borders are going to be reduced. That is no answer.

The National Guard Border Enforcement Act will change all that. It will authorize 10,000 National Guard troops to be put on the border. The troops will be paid for by the Federal Government under the supervision of the Border Of Governors. Now that's a plan we can live with. Otherwise the border war will continue in the valley of the gun and the land of lawless days.

And that's just the way it is.

## TAX RELIEF FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. When President Obama took office, he inherited a \$1.2 trillion deficit, two wars, the recession and mounting job losses that pushed our economy to the brink. Since then, we have made steady progress towards recovery and have laid the groundwork to create new jobs. But during these tough times, we must act decisively to extend tax relief for middle class families.

If Congress does not act soon, 98 percent of Americans will face a tax increase in January 1. For the typical middle class family, this means the loss of \$2,000 next year. Two thousand means an awful lot to middle income families.

Republicans must stop holding these tax cuts for the middle class hostage. I state, Republicans must stop holding these tax cuts for the middle class hostage. Extending the tax cut for the rich will not create jobs and stimulate the economy, but it will add—I state, it will add—\$700 billion to our national deficit—\$700 billion to our national deficit. The time for simply saying "no" is over. Let's work together to create jobs.

## HONORING W. CARY EDWARDS

(Mr. LANCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of New Jersey's great public servants, W. Cary Edwards, who passed away in October at the age of 66.

Over the course of four decades in public life, Cary Edwards served at the highest levels of New Jersey government, including as State assemblyman, chief counsel to Governor Thomas H. Kean, and State attorney general. At the time of his death, he was chairman of the New Jersey State Commission of Investigation.

To me, he was a wonderful mentor and good friend. I had the honor of working under him and learning from him when he served as Governor Kean's chief counsel in the first half of the 1980s. Cary Edwards inspired a whole generation of young people in the field of law and public policy. He will be remembered as an inspiring leader in the State of New Jersey.

To his wonderful wife, Lynn, his daughters and sister and to the entire Edwards family, we extend our deepest sympathy. W. Cary Edwards of Oakland, Bergen County, New Jersey, will be greatly missed by the people of our State.

## HOPE SCHOLARSHIPS

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, today the United States received very good news concerning education in America. Nationwide, high school graduation rates rose 2 percent. But even better, in my State of Tennessee, the rates rose 15 percent, the number one increase in the United States of America. Those are statistics from the year 2002 to 2009 as determined by the Promise Institute that Colin Powell headed. And part of that I'm happy to attribute it to, and that is the Tennessee education lottery which was my hallmark legislation as a State senator. The lottery referendum passed in 2002, and the education law went into effect in 2003, giving children the incentive that they can go to college, that they can have a better life. Giving them hope with HOPE scholarships has helped kids make better grades in high school and turn out better graduates in Tennessee.

I appreciate the fact that Tennessee has been recognized today as the country's education grades and scores have gone up, and we need to continue working on this. And if every State gave their students HOPE, we would have a better Nation.